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STATINTL

KENNEDY'S OWN WORDS: HOW HE RUNS WHITE HOUSE NOW

WASHINGTON — President Kennedy has changed the way the White House is being run. Formal meetings of the Cabinet and the National Security Council are less frequent now. The President's own explanation, as given in a television interview:

Mr. Kennedy: "Actually, I think we have only had two Cabinet meetings since I have taken over which is entirely different from previous Presidents, but the reason is that all these problems Cabinet officers deal with are very specialized. I see all the Cabinet officers every week, but we don't have a general meeting."

"There really isn't much use spending a morning talking about the Post Office budget and tying up Secretary [Orville] Freeman, who has agricultural responsibilities, and Secretary [Abraham] Ribicoff, who is dealing with the problems of health, education and welfare. It is much better,

if we have a problem involving labor-management, for me to meet with Secretary [Luther] Hodges from Commerce and Secretary [Arthur] Goldberg from Labor and myself, so that we meet—we see the Cabinet every week but we do not have these general Cabinet meetings which I really feel to be unnecessary and involve a waste of time in many cases."



— Jacques Lawrence / AP

President Kennedy tells NBC correspondent Fay Schooler why the Cabinet isn't meeting very often these days

Q: "Is the same thing true of meeting with the National Security Council?"

Mr. Kennedy: "To a lesser degree that is also true."

"We have averaged three or four meetings a week with the Secretary of Defense and State [and] McGeorge Bundy [Special Assistant to the President] and the head of the CIA, Mr. Allen Dulles, and the Vice President."

"But formal meetings of the Security Council which include a much wider group are not as effective, and it is more difficult to decide matters involving high national security if there is a wider group present."

"I think in the future that we will find the Cabinet perhaps more important than it has ever been, but Cabinet meetings not as important."

Mr. Kennedy made his remarks during an interview televised by NBC on April 11.